



Media Contact:

Greg Risling
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
GRisling@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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**‘Purse Packing Bandit’ Charged in Series
of Bank Robberies in Los Angeles Area**

A woman dubbed by authorities as the ‘Purse Packing Bandit’ was charged today with multiple counts of robbery for a series of bank heists over the past two years, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Brianna Kloutse (dob 8/23/67) was charged in case BA428673 with nine counts of second-degree robbery and two counts of attempted second-degree robbery. She is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Kloutse is charged with robbing nine banks in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and West Hollywood since October 2012. She also is facing charges in connection with two attempted robberies in December 2012 and March 2014.

Prosecutors said Kloutse often wore a wig, handed a teller a demand note and either flashed what appeared to be a handgun or indicated she had one in her purse. Kloutse was arrested Friday by Beverly Hills police immediately following a robbery at a bank in the 8400 block of Wilshire Boulevard.

If convicted as charged, Kloutse faces up to 14 years and four months in state prison. Prosecutors are asking that bail be set at \$550,000.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.